

Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MACK, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. COATS, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. ROBB):

S.J. Res. 17. A joint resolution naming the CVN-76 aircraft carrier as the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 53. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 226. A bill to designate additional land as within the Chaco Culture Archaeological Protection Sites, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE CHACOAN OUTLIERS PROTECTION ACT

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Chacoan Outliers Protection Act of 1995. This legislation will expand the Chaco culture archaeological protection sites to include an additional 5,516 acres containing structures and artifacts associated with the Chacoan Anasazi Indian culture of the San Juan Basin of New Mexico.

Chaco Canyon lies within the San Juan Basin in northwestern New Mexico, an area of major significance to the cultural history of North America. It is estimated that the first human occupation of the area dates as far back as 10,000 years ago, when Paleo-Indian hunters entered the area.

The culture of these hunter-gatherers evolved quickly. Within the period spanning from 500 to 900 A.D., the culture of the people of the San Juan Basin, part of a larger culture known as the Anasazi, a Navajo term meaning "the ancient ones," had developed more quickly than nearby Anasazi communities and cultures.

While modern-day Chaco Canyon is a remote and barren site, ancient Chaco Canyon was the center of the Anasazi civilization. The Anasazi flourished, building more pueblos and structures around Chaco Canyon and establishing a large network of outlying communities, which are what we now refer to as the Chacoan outliers. These outliers were spread over an area of more than 30,000 square miles and linked by an extensive system of roads.

As suddenly as the Anasazi evolved and thrived in the San Juan area, by 1300 A.D. the culture just as quickly disappeared, lasting only a brief 400 years. The sudden evolution and dis-

appearance of the Anasazi, as well as the purpose of Chaco Canyon and its outliers, are two of archaeology's more intriguing mysteries.

It is traditionally believed that Chaco was a trade center for as many as 75 outlying communities in the area. Other maintain that Chaco was a religious and ceremonial site. While no one is certain exactly what function Chaco served in its time, all agree that its remaining sites must be preserved and protected.

Chaco Canyon has long been recognized as a nationally and internationally significant site. In March 1907, a Presidential proclamation established Chaco Canyon as a national monument. The monument was further enlarged in 1928 by another Presidential proclamation.

I have long been a supporter of preserving these precious areas. In 1980, I introduced and the Congress passed the Chaco Culture National Historical Park Establishment Act, which became Public Law 96-550. This act enlarged the park and reestablished it as the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, consisting of the main body of the park and three noncontiguous units. The act also mandated procedures for the protection, preservation, and administration of archaeological remnants of the Chacoan culture.

When Chaco Canyon was first afforded Federal protection in 1907, numerous archaeological sites were known to exist outside the boundaries of the national monument. Their relationship to Chaco Canyon, however, was unclear. Archaeologists subsequently determined that many of these sites—some as far as 100 miles from Chaco Canyon—were part of the Chacoan culture.

To the untrained eye, the physical remains of the Chacoan outliers are difficult to discern. At some of the sites, walls still stand. At most sites, however, the magnificent structures of the Anasazi people have collapsed into a mound of rubble, which over the years have been buried by the desert sands and eroded by sand and wind. Unfortunately, many of these sites were further vandalized by unscrupulous pot hunters or degraded by development activities.

In order to protect these outliers, the Chaco Culture National Historical Park Establishment Act designated 33 sites as Chaco culture archaeological protection sites. The Secretary of the Interior is charged with managing these sites in order to preserve them and provide for their interpretation and study. Activities that would endanger the cultural values of the sites are prohibited.

Ownership of the lands containing the archaeological protection sites is a checkerboard of private, State, Federal, and Indian interests. The Indian interests include trust, allotted, and fee parcels. In addition, some surface and subsurface ownerships are divided between two or more entities. There-

fore, the act mandated that these lands be protected by cooperative agreements, rather than Federal acquisition, where possible.

The Chacoan outliers are not included in the National Park System. Rather, they are managed primarily by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Navajo Nation, and the Bureau of Land Management. These entities are responsible for resource protection and preservation at the sites.

This legislation will expand the existing Chaco culture archaeological protection sites system to add a total of eight new sites, and deleting two others. Of the two sites deleted, one has been incorporated into El Malpais National Monument, and the other is owned and protected by the Ute mountain tribe which prefers to manage this site. The additions are all publicly owned. This legislation also modifies the boundaries of certain already designated protection sites.

Included in these new archaeological protection sites is the first Forest Service site, Chimney Rock in southern Colorado. The Manuelito sites have been designated as "Priority 1 National Historic Landmarks" because severe erosion has damaged the sites. The Morris 41 site was added to the list as a result of hearings in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources last year.

The net results of the changes to be made by the Chacoan Outliers Protection Act would be to increase the number of Chaco culture archaeological protection sites from 33 to 39 and to increase the acreage of the system by 5,516 acres to 14,372 acres.

This legislation also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to use a combination of land acquisition authority and cooperative agreements to provide archaeological resources protection at those sites remaining in private ownership. Testimony received during hearings in the House of Representatives last year indicated that the Department of the Interior did not have authority to purchase sites without clear evidence of damage or destruction of the Chacoan resources located in such areas. The bill was modified by the House to authorize the acquisition of such sites before they are destroyed.

Twenty-five of the thirty-nine sites designated under this bill are under Navajo jurisdiction. The Navajo people have preserved these resources in the past, but no single agency has previously taken the lead role in assisting the Navajo Nation in these efforts to ensure that the Navajo Nation will have a meaningful and equitable role in managing the Chaco sites. Therefore, this bill directs the Secretary to assist the Navajo Nation in the protection and management of the sites located on lands under the Navajo Nation's jurisdiction.

These changes are the result of dedicated years of research, recommendations, and assistance from Federal,